

Remarks

Claims 1-27 are pending, and claims 1-27 stand rejected. Claims 1, 10, and 19 are amended by this Response. The Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection and request allowance of claims 1-27.

Response to Examiner's Comments in Section 3 of Office action

In section 3 of the Office action, the Examiner responded to the Applicants arguments on attacking prior art references individually. In the Examiner's response, the Examiner misinterpreted the Applicants remarks. The Applicants will try to explain more clearly.

Assume a hypothetical claim includes limitations A and B, and an examiner rejects the claim based on obviousness, and combines reference 1 and 2 for the rejection. The examiner rejects limitation A using reference 1 and rejects limitation B using reference 2. In response to the rejection, an applicant may properly show that reference 1 does not teach either of limitations A and B. It may be unnecessary for the applicant to show that reference 1 does not teach limitation B, but the applicant may choose to for completeness. The applicant may also show that reference 2 does not teach either of limitations A and B. It may be unnecessary for the applicant to show that reference 2 does not teach limitation A, but the applicant may choose to for completeness.

The Applicants agree that it is proper for the examiner in a rejection to show reference 1 as teaching limitation A and reference 2 as teaching limitation B, and combining the reference to show a teaching of A and B. When did the Applicants ever suggest otherwise? The Applicants suggest that if reference 1 does not teach limitation A and reference 2 does not teach limitation A, then the combination of the two cannot teach limitation A. Similarly, if reference 1 does not teach limitation B and reference 2 does not teach limitation B, then the combination of the two cannot teach limitation B. Thus, if an applicant shows individually that reference 1 does not teach limitation A and that reference 2 does not teach limitation A, then the applicants have successfully shown that the combination of the references do not teach limitation A. Similarly, if an applicant shows individually that reference 1 does not teach limitation B and that reference 2 does not teach limitation B, then the applicants have successfully shown that the combination of the references do not teach limitation B. Thus, it is entirely proper to attack the limitations

individually to show that none of the cited references teach the limitations of the claims.

§ 103 Claim Rejections

The Examiner rejected claims 1-27 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 in view of Cooper and U.S. Patent Application Publication Number 2001/0054019 (de Fabrega). The Applicants submit that claims 1-27 are non-obvious over Cooper and de Fabrega.

In independent claims 1, 10, and 19, the Applicants added the following limitation:

wherein the intranet configuration defines at least one connection between a plurality of intranet communication devices within the intranet

Support for this limitation may be found in the specification on page 5. By defining intranet configurations as provided above, the Applicants submit that neither Cooper nor de Fabrega teaches intranet configurations such as this. Cooper does not teach or describe information on a card that creates connections between a plurality of intranet communication devices within an intranet. Cooper focuses on providing connections and/or access to a network, but does not teach processing information on a card to create a particular configuration within an intranet. de Fabrega also does not teach or describe information on a card that creates connections between a plurality of intranet communication devices within an intranet. Similar to Cooper, de Fabrega focuses on providing access to an e-commerce intranet. de Fabrega describes a card that includes financial account information, a log-on ID, a PIN, etc, to authenticate the user so that the user may access the e-commerce intranet and possibly purchase merchandise. However, de Fabrega does not teach processing information on a card to create a particular configuration within the e-commerce intranet. Because neither Cooper nor de Fabrega teaches creating intranet configurations as provided in the amended claims, the Applicants submit that the claims are non-obvious over the combination of Cooper and de Fabrega.

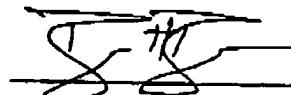
Conclusion

Based on the above remarks, the Applicants submit that claims 1-27 are allowable. There may be additional reasons in support of patentability, but such reasons are omitted in the interests of brevity. The Applicants respectfully request allowance of claims 1-27.

Any fees may be charged to deposit account 21-0765.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 8-9-04



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